



# **LINCOLN CHAFEE**

## **U.S. SENATOR**

### **RHODE ISLAND**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **CHAFEE ANNOUNCES \$1,865,000 FOR BLACKSTONE RIVER VALLEY**

**WASHINGTON, DC** – U.S. Senator Lincoln Chafee announced that \$1.865 million will be appropriated to the John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor (JHC-BRVNHC) as part of the Fiscal Year 2004 Department of Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations bill. The JHC-BRVNHC Commission plays an integral role in the revitalization of the Blackstone Valley. In 1998, President Clinton recognized the accomplishments of the BRVNHC by naming the Blackstone and Woonasquatucket Rivers a component of the American Heritage River System. Since its creation in 1986, the BRVNHC has served as a model for other heritage areas and urban park systems.

“With the help of the National Park Service, through the creation and work of the JHC-BRVNHC, the Valley is experiencing positive change based on cultural preservation and river restoration,” Chafee said. “This all contributes to economic redevelopment, and I am hopeful that these critical funds will continue this success,” Chafee continued.

“These funds will allow the Heritage Corridor to continue to realize a positive vision for the Blackstone Valley. Obtaining federal funds in these economic times is a testament to the commitment that Senator Chafee and the entire congressional delegation have to what we are achieving,” said Michael Creasey of the National Park Service. “This is great news for all of the partners throughout the Valley that are making incredible progress.”

The funding will be used to bring new life to the Blackstone River Valley through revitalizing mills and mill villages into vibrant economic centers, restoring the ecological health of the Blackstone River for fish and recreational uses, and telling the story of the historical context of the area.

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